COMBATING AGAINST TOBACCO SMUGGLING: TAIWAN'S EXPERIENCE

Asian Center for WTO & International Health Law and Policy*

ABSTRACT

This paper is the fruit of a joint effort by the members of our ACWH center, with the purpose of introducing the common and otherwise methods of tobacco smuggling, and the current system in which to curb such criminal activities in Taiwan. We argue that the liberalization of the market, alleviation of criminal and administrative responsibilities, and shortage of equipment and manpower substantially contribute to the sizable demand for foreign and smuggled tobacco alike, a phenomenon which renders the current deterrent system somewhat inadequate. In addition, we also suggest that a better, more efficient, but realistic solution to the growing trend of tobacco smuggling can not be achieved without the international collaboration of the global community.

KEYWORDS: FCTC, tobacco smuggling, reward, customs, seizure, contraband tobacco.

^{*} Chang-fa Lo, Tsai-yu Lin, Pei-kan Yang, Su-hua Lee, Chuan-feng Wu, Kuan-chieh Chen, Yun-che Hsieh, Ding Jin, Jia-huey Lin, Yuan-kai Shen, Yu-keng Yang, Roger Lee and Alex Lo. The authors can be reached at wtocenter@ntu.edu.tw.